information elements from the module to the control unit and the reception of information elements from the control unit; cordless communication means connected to the microcontroller to enable the transmission of information elements from the module to the control unit and the reception of information elements from the control unit; independent supply means connected to the microcontroller to supply said microcontroller if the piece of goods, and therefore the protection module, is disconnected from the electrical power distribution system; and movement detection means connected to the microcontroller to produce an information element on movement in the form of a digital message when a movement of the piece of goods is detected (col.2, line 42 - col.3, line 4).

If the movement detection means detects a movement of the piece of goods, it sends a message to the microcontroller. The microcontroller then sends an alarm message to the control unit through the cordless communication means. The microcontroller could also send the alarm message simultaneously through the fixed communication medium. This message includes the address of the transmitter, namely the reference of the piece of goods fitted out with the module which sends the message, and the address of the destination, namely the reference of the control unit. After reception of the alarm message, the control unit sends a message by the cordless communication medium to the protection module of the piece of goods from which this alarm message comes, asking for a confirmation of the alarm message through the fixed communication medium. If the protection module associated with this piece of goods is not disconnected from the fixed communication medium, it may send a message confirming the alarm message by carrier current through the fixed medium (col.3,lines 19-

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45).

Theft is possible only if the piece of goods is disconnected from the fixed communication medium. For greater security, it may be planned that the protection module will send the confirmation message back a certain number of times through the fixed communication medium (col.3, lines 45-50).

If the protection module associated with the article is disconnected from the fixed medium, the control unit will never receive the confirmation message by the fixed communication medium. It could, if necessary, after a certain fixed or programmable period of time, request a confirmation of the alarm message by the cordless communication medium (col.3, lines 51-56).

In order to enable goods to be handled without having to deactivate the entire system, an interface may be provided at each protected piece of goods to deactivate the protection module of this piece of goods. The term "deactivated module" is understood to mean a module that does not send any alarm message if the piece of goods with which it is associated is shifted (col.3, line 62 - col.4, line 1).

U.S. Patent 5,898,831 (HALL ET AL.)

Hall defines as a member a device that device A expects to be in proximity with; when the member device is not in proximity, device A may be missing (col.13, lines 21-25).

Hall teaches security data involving specifications that are both inclusive and exclusive. For example, an inclusive specification might be "when I no longer see device B then I am missing". An exclusive specification might be "If I see device D then I am missing". Desirably, when all such member devices in the security group have been

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programmed with each other's data, security information with respect to device A is refined to include multiple interactions. For example, suppose that device A's security group includes three devices named B, C and D. The security criteria contained within device A could be refined with inclusive statements like "If any two of the devices B, C, D are absent for two hours or more then I am missing". The criteria could also be refined with exclusive statements like "If I ever see devices C and D within three minutes of each other then I am missing" (col.14, lines 37-54).

Security management is based on proximity detection. FIG. 19 is a flowchart outlining polling/alarm procedure 270 for use in conjunction with a security group. Procedure 270 begins (block 271) by device A waiting a prescribed polling interval (block 273). The polling interval may be specific to the nature of device A and may vary from a very short (e.g., five minutes) polling interval in some cases to relatively long polling intervals for other types of devices (e.g., a day). Following the polling interval wait, device A may poll all members 121 in the security group (block 275) to determine whether or not they are in proximity (col.15, lines 6-16).

ARGUMENTS

As to the §102(e) rejection of claims 1, 6 and 9, the invention comprises the claim limitation that the alarm activation processor effects an alarm response dependent on a status of the appliance and on a rule base associated with the appliance.

Le Van Suu neither teaches nor suggests using a status report and a rule base to effect an alarm response. Le Van Suu teaches using a movement detector in a piece of goods to trigger sending a message to

the control unit via the cordless medium. Upon receipt of the wireless message, the control unit sends a message via the cordless medium to the piece of goods with the request to confirm the alarm via the fixed medium. If the piece of goods is disconnected from the fixed medium, the confirmation cannot be sent and the alarm procedure is initiated. Shifting or handling the goods without triggering the alarm can only be accomplished through manually deactivating the protection module or the entire system.

In other words, Le Van Suu teaches using a two-way communication protocol via different communication media, one of which is interrupted in case of theft, and the interruption is interpreted as a theft.

The rule base in the invention on the other hand allows for a security system that takes into account various circumstances to enable discrimination between unauthorized and authorized actions. See, the application as filed, e.g., page 5, lines 22-25; page 5, lines 26-30; page 6, lines 2-12; page 7, lines 9-12; page 7, line 24 - page 8, line 8; page 8, line 21 - page 9, line 10.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1, 6, 9 and 13 under §102(e) refering to Le Van Suu is incorrect.

The dependent claims recite subject matter patentable over the independent claims. For example, claim 2 specifies a second appliance having a second primary function independent of security and comprising the alarm activation processor. This claim limitation specifies the distributed character of the security system wherein the appliances take care of each other. This claim limitation is neither taught nor suggested by claim 1. Accordingly, the dependent claims are patentable as well.

As to the rejection of claim 13 under §102(e) with reference to
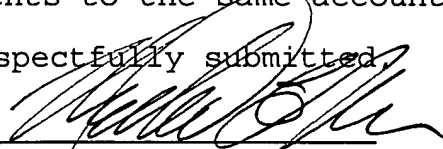
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Hall, the Hall reference teaches security based on proximity detection. When a device A is not within the proximity of a device B, device A concludes that device A itself is missing. On the other hand, in the invention of claim 13 of the pending application, security is provided to device B. Device A has a rule base regarding device B. The status of device B is communicated to device A. Device A determines an alarm response based on the status of device B and the rule base. In other words, security is provided to device B owing to the rule base and status receptivity at device A.

Applicant has demonstrated that the current claims are allowable over the cited art. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims.

Applicant respectfully submits that he has answered all issues raised by the Examiner and that the application is accordingly in condition for allowance. Such allowance is therefore respectfully requested. Please charge any fees other than the issue fee to deposit account 14-1270.

Please credit any overpayments to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
Michael E. Marion, Reg. 32,266
For Peter Verdonk
(408) 617-4613

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